

## The Jackson Hand Worked Sampler

Have you a wall sampler worked in cross-stitch embroidery? This kind of handicraft was found in many of the early settler's homes and was made by women of the household as a hobby to decorate the homes. They were usually framed and hung on the walls.

The pioneers were usually devoutly religious as many of the texts contained Biblical references. Some of commoner ones were inscribed with "*Home Sweet Home*", or "*What Is Home Without A Mother?*", or even "*Grow Old With Me; The Best Is Yet To Be.*"

Dr. Irvine R. Pounder a former member of the teaching staff of both Toronto and York Universities viewed one of these samplers at Champlain Trail Museum and supplied the missing lines from his memory. Dr. Pounder was a son of the late Joseph Pounder and was born in Westmeath Township and was a student at the Bromley Line School. He lived on the farm later owned by Clyde Brown. He was married to Susie Findlay of Pembroke.

To enhance the working, there were borders of different colours of wool surrounding the Old English script type and quite elaborate. The inscriptions were sometimes more complicated and a photostat copy of one work of art is at the Museum having been done by the Noah Jackson Family of Westmeath.

It was done by a young girl and in the right hand corner she had worked the words:

*"Harriet Amelia Jackson is my name, And Westmeath is my native place." "Parents' Births – Noah Jackson born 1790. Amelia Cobb born 1799 and Married in 1822. Children – Elizabeth M.R. Jackson; Alfreda N. Jackson; Sophia W. Jackson; Harriet A. Jackson; Elizabeth Jackson; Joseph C. Jackson; Charles A. Jackson; Noah W. Jackson; Harrison C. Jackson. Birth date of Noah W. Jackson is June 30, 1838."*

When Westmeath Township Fair was organized in 1857, Noah Jackson was elected as secretary, a position he held for a decade. During this period there was no president but in 1867, Walter Findlay was elected as the first President of the same body, which became the North Renfrew Agricultural Society, with Noah Jackson still holding the position of secretary.

Underneath the list of births are the names of deaths of anyone in the family. Then came the verse:

*"I love to muse when none are nigh, Where willow branches wave, And hear the wind with softest sighs, Sweep o'er the grassy graves."*

Researched by Mrs. Evelyn Price and taken from the Pembroke Observer.

Submitted to the Tweedsmuir Book by Noreen Desjardins, March 1982.



This copy of the hand-worked sampler done by Miss Harriet Amelia Jackson was given by a decendent of the Jackson's to Frances Hennessy. Submitted to the Tweedsmuir Book April, 1982.